Water scarcity

4786. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisations has pointed out that although there was no global water crisis, there were serious water and food security problems in some developing countries;

(b) if so, whether in the report, India also has been considered as one of the scarcity threat of water nation;

(c) if so, the main reasons mentioned in the report;

(d) the other countries where shortage of water will continue; and

(e) what steps are being taken to meet the water scarcity in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the Report entitled "Unlocking the water potential of agriculture", individual countries have not been named as water scarcity nations. It indicates that one in five developing countries would face water shortage by 2030. It is mentioned in the report that irrigated areas in the developing countries are expected to increase from currently 205 million hectare to 242 million hectare and water withdrawals for irrigation is projected to increase by 14 per cent by 2030. By 2030, East Asia, the Near East and North Africa would be using three-quarters of their irrigable land and South Asia almost 90 per cent.

(e) In order to augment the availability of water in the country for irrigation and other uses and for their efficient use, a large number of dams have been constructed thereby creating 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of storage capacity. Another 75 BCM of storage will be created on completion of dams which are under various stages of construction. Proposals to take up additional dams to create a live storage capacity of 132 BCM are also under formulation/consideration. To accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water

Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

Contaminated water

†4787. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many harmful chemicals such as arsenic, zinc etc. have been found in water in various parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people are not only falling ill due to the consumption of such contaminated water but they are also suffering from other fatal diseases; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government for treatment of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) As per studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. However, ground water has been found contaminated in some parts of the country. The names of States and locations where ground water has been found contaminated and reasons thereof are given in enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) People in parts of West Bengal are suffering from arsenic dermotesis and other related problems. Provision of drinking water supply is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has been assisting and guiding the States in provisioning of safe drinking water to rural areas under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and exclusive Sub-Mission programmes in areas having serious ground water quality problems like fluoride, iron, arsenic and brackishness. In such areas where ground water is unfit for drinking, safe drinking water is provided through alternative sources, either by tapping surface water or by undertaking remedial measures like de-fluoridation, iron and arsenic removal.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.